

K-142

Circa 1740-1770

Shallcross Farm; Tibbalds

Near Locust Grove

Private

The large brick five-bay-wide, 2-1/2 storey house at Shallcross Farm was once the country seat of one of Kent County's wealthiest landowning families, the successive Isaac Freemans of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, who were active in county politics and in the administration of Shrewsbury Parish. They owned much of Shallcross Neck--Castle Carey and Marsh Point in addition to Tibbalds (the early name for Shallcross Farm). However, it was Tibbalds that was the home farm, called the "Mansion Farm." Freeman also owned property in Georgetown, perhaps following the tradition of the gentry, who spent part of the year in a townhouse and part of the year on the farm. The brick house was indeed a mansion of its time, one of the most elaborately and well-crafted pre-Revolutionary houses. Some of it remains in almost original condition (stair and third storey). Colin Ferguson, the son of the second president of Washington College by the same name, was an early nineteenth-century owner of the farm. The farm takes its presently-used, common name from the longtime ownership of Thomas J. Shallcross and his wife; his brother owned the farm to the south, Castle Carey. During this period Sassafras River-to-Baltimore steamboats called for farm commodities at Shallcross Wharf at the north end of the neck. Near the end of the nineteenth century the Shallcross family lost the farm through a mortgage default. Perhaps it was during this time that some of the interior woodwork was sold. It was gone by 1927, when the parents of the present owner purchased the farm. It is possible that some west parlor panelling is present but covered by plaster. In spite of missing elements, this is the best-preserved eighteenth century farmhouse on Shallcross Neck. It probably also was the finest house for some distance around when it was built.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Tibbalds, Mansion Farm

and/or common Shallcross Farm (preferred)

### 2. Location

street & number West side Shallcross Neck Road, 2 miles  
north of Rt. 213 ☐ not for publication

city, town Locust Grove ☒ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Kent

### 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mrs. Mary E. Rickards Baisden

street & number 2411 Kingsbury Drive telephone no.: 348-5534  
877-7528

city, town Joppa state and zip code Maryland 21085

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber EHP79

street & number Cross Street folio 405

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory - HABS Inventory

date September 18, 1968 ☒ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis, state Maryland 21401

## 7. Description

Survey No. K-142

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Shallcross Farm is the most northwesterly farm on Shallcross Neck, one of the many necks of the Sassafras River. Freeman's Creek defines the neck on the west, and Woodland Creek and Island Creek so so on the east. The appellation of Freeman is the result of the longtime, early ownership of Shallcross Farm by the Freeman family. The farm is reached by the long neck road; the house is quite close to it on the west. The road continues north to what formerly was the Shallcross Farm wharf, where until the early twentieth century Sassafras River steamboats stopped regularly for farm commodities. The wharf continued to be used by sailing vessels afterwards. The farmhouse is a large, brick 2-1/2 storey house built in a vernacular Georgian style that most likely was the finest house of its time for some distance. It is five bays wide on the main, south facade and three bays wide on the rear, north facade. A three-bay wide, 1-1/2 storey wing on the main section's west end is a complete replacement for the crumbling 1-1/2 storey brick wing that once stood there. The old bricks that were in good condition were re-used. The plan of the main section is central hall with one room each side. There is distinctly Georgian, and perhaps almost Jacobean, stair that ascends to the third storey, which is almost in its original condition. There are three dormers in the front roof slope and now only one in the rear; there were three there also.

(Continued)

## 8. Significance

Survey No. K-142

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1740–1770

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The large brick house at Shallcross Farm was once the country seat of one of Kent County's wealthiest landowning families, the successive Isaac Freemans of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, who were active in county politics and in the administration of Shrewsbury Parish. They owned much of Shallcross Neck, Castle Carey and Marsh Point in addition to Tibbalds (the early name for Shallcross Farm, a middle to late nineteenth century name for the family that then lived there). However, it was Tibbalds that was the home farm, called the "Mansion Farm." Freeman also owned property in Georgetown, perhaps following the tradition of the gentry, who spent part of the year in a townhouse and part of the year on the farm. The brick house was indeed a mansion of its time, one of the most elaborately and well-crafted pre-Revolutionary houses. Some of it remains in almost original condition (stair and third storey). Colin Ferguson, the son of the second president of Washington College by the same name, was an early nineteenth-century owner of the farm. The farm takes its presently-used, common name from the longtime ownership of Thomas J. Shallcross and his wife; his brother owned the farm to the south, Castle Carey. Near the end of the nineteenth century the Shallcross family lost the farm through a mortgage default. Perhaps it was during this time that some of the interior woodwork was sold. It was gone by 1927, when the parents of the present owner purchased the farm. It is possible that some west parlor panelling is present but covered by plaster. In spite of missing elements, this is the best-preserved eighteenth century farmhouse on Shallcross Neck.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-142

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret Q. Fallaw, Survey Consultant  
County Commissioners of Kent County

organization Historical Society of Kent County date November 29, 1985  
Court House 778-4600

street & number Cross Street telephone 778-3499

city or town Chestertown state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

With the replacement of the old brick wing with a rebuilt wing in the same location, it is impossible to judge whether the old wing might have been older or later than the main section. Oral tradition has placed the building of the house, or perhaps the wing, in 1743. Judging from the evidence, it is possible that the main section could date from then.

The two first-storey main rooms have been largely stripped of their woodwork. The cornice, mantels, and presumed paneling is gone. However, there may be at least some panelling remaining on the west end wall, behind plaster. Panel backs can be seen in the closet at the north bay's entry to the side wing. Cornice and chair rail do remain in the small second storey room at the front of the stair hall, now used for a bathroom. In the east parlor the handsome window treatments remain, though the lower sections are now being eaten by insects. The deep jambs of the quite tall windows are panelled, and there is a panel beneath the deep window seat. This detail is probably indicative of the quality of the original room. The stair is virtually in original condition, though it is possible that the dark finish and graining that is on the spandrel panels (and on the panels of the large main-entry door) date from the nineteenth century. However, this does not seem to be the case. The stair is open-string; it is half-turn with two landings. There are three very closely-set balusters per tread, with square upper and lower sections and a turned center section. These seemed to have run out between second and third storeys, where they begin to be mixed with a simpler, square baluster with chamfered edges. The stair was originally open to the third storey's center space, where above the last run of the stair the balustrade is composed of simple, horizontal rails. The third storey has now been closed off with plywood behind this balustrade. Board walls divide the third-storey space. For an unknown reason the west third-storey room is covered on eave walls and ceiling with flush, wide horizontal boards, now somewhat deteriorated. It is in this room that there is an original dormer face, indicating the fine craftsmanship that went into this house. It evidently is from one of the dormers that was removed from the rear of the building and not replaced. The front dormers and the center rear one are rebuilt dormers in old locations. The rear central dormer lights the stair between second and third storey. There is a secondary stair in the main section, in the northwest corner of the west room. Adjacent is an opening that is original, now and previously to the wing, though it could originally have been to the exterior, most logically leading to a detached kitchen.

The dark-red bricks of the facade are laid in Flemish bond. Holes in the facade, the east end, and the rear wall indicate that at least on three sides there were once pent roofs, or eaves. Though the west end cannot be seen well because of the wing, no such marks are visible there where the wing roof is the lowest. Another farmhouse, Scotch Folly, on Shallcross Neck once had a pent roof, also now gone. In Kent County pent roofs appear to be a phenomenon of the northern part of the county, perhaps because of proximity to Cecil County and farther north, where they were evidently more common. As they deteriorated, probably during the nineteenth century, as they were wont to do, they were generally removed rather than replaced during periods when

(continued)

smoother-faced buildings were preferred. There is a two-course belt on the same three sides of the building that had the pent eave. The belt is immediately beneath the second-storey windows. The pent eave probably began just below the belt, which served as a drip, and extended to just above the first-storey windows. The appearance presented must have been quite different from the present. The upper course is of stretchers, the lower of headers. The brick of the ends and rear of the main section were laid in 1-to-3 common (or Liverpool) bond. Here there are numerous dark headers, but they are random. The front facade, where one might expect dark headers with the Flemish bond, is not patterned. There are evidences in the approach side's brickwork of the limits of early porches, at 16" and 22" to the left of the main entry jamb (view on the right is obscured). On the rear, north side, where there are now no steps or porch, marks can be seen about 16" from the jambs. There is an unstepped water table laid in English bond that is compoundly molded at its upper edge: an ovolo with small fillets above a cove. The molded brick is not very uniform.

The main-entry door is very large and with six panels. Jambs and lintel are panelled and there is a three light transom with evidence that there were once muntins in a diamond shape. On the interior the panels are grained in a lighter color than the dark varnish of the rails and stiles.

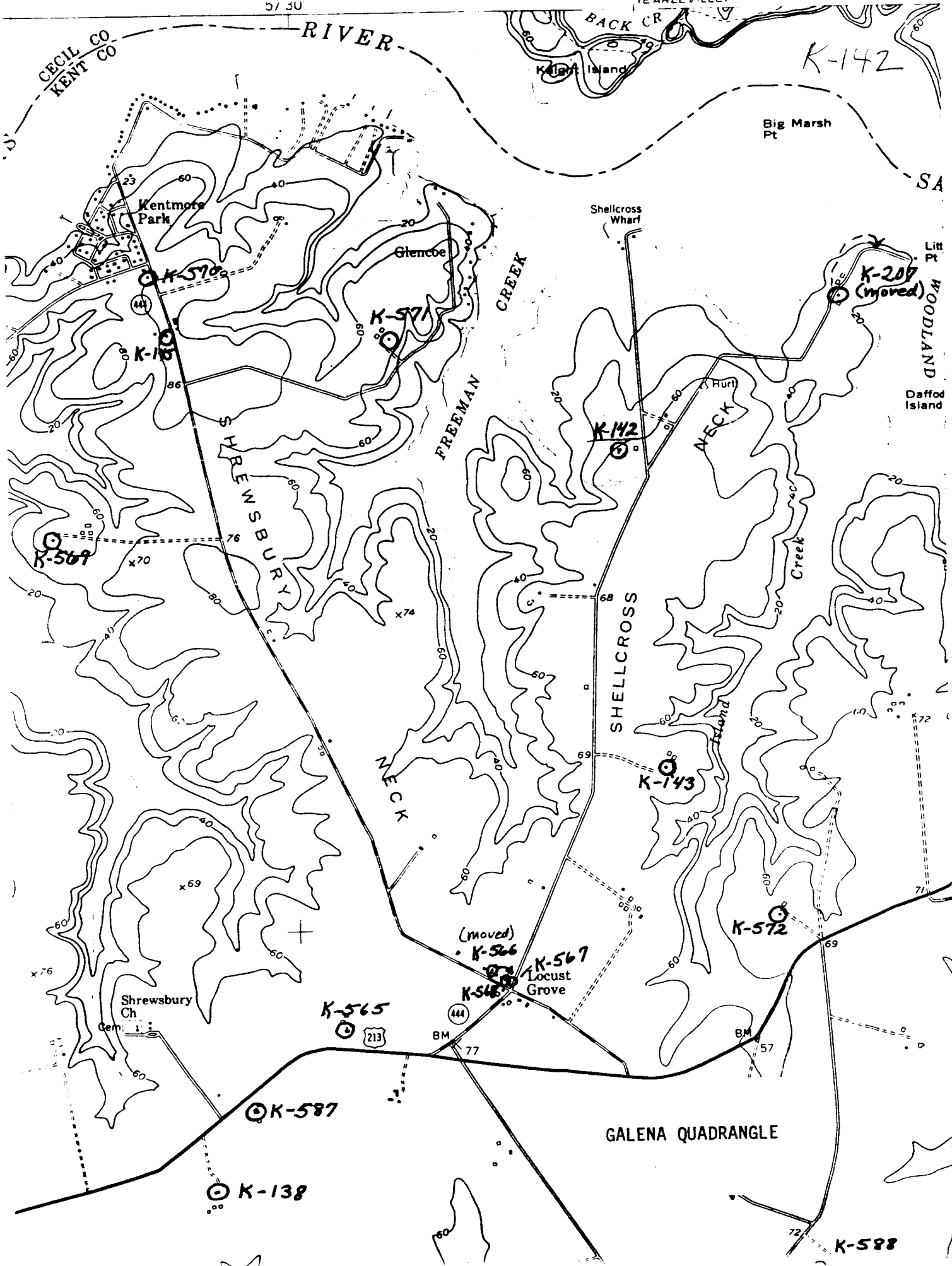
The Shallcross House is a large brick dwelling, five bays long, two-and-one-half stories high. The south facade is laid in Flenish bond; there is a stepped water table and a belt course beneath the second story window sills. The position of the belt course and the irregular brick work at the joist level indicate that there was a pent eave on the north, east, and south sides of the dwelling and on the east gable. The windows of the first story have 4/4 sashes and those of the second story have 9/6. The north side of the house is only three bays long with an off-center door. On the west side is a one-and-one-half story brick kitchen wing which has been reconstructed. Large chimneys are located in each gable.

The interior of the main portion consists of central stair hall flanked by a room on each side which retain most of their original woodwork.



Deed - RRA 8-428

1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Kent</u> TOWN <u>Kennedyville</u> VICINITY <u>Locust Grove</u> STREET NO. <u>Shallcross Road</u>		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>K-142</u>	
ORIGINAL OWNER <u>shallcross</u> ORIGINAL USE <u>dwelling</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>Alfred S. Richards</u> PRESENT USE <u>vacation home</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>Brick</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>2½</u>		2. NAME <u>Shallcross House</u>  DATE OR PERIOD <u>mich 18th Century</u> STYLE <u>Colonial</u> ARCHITECT _____ BUILDER _____	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
<p>The Shallcross House is a large brick dwelling, 5 bays long, 2½ stories high. The center facade is laid - Finish band; there is a stepped water table and a belt course beneath the 2nd story window sills. The position of the belt course and the irregular brick work at the joist level indicate that there was a part same <sup>on the</sup> north east and south sides of the dwelling and <del>at</del> on the east gable. The windows of the 1st story have ¾ sash and those of the 2nd story have ⅞. The north side of the house is only 3 bays long with an off-center door. <del>The</del> On the west side is a 1½ story brick kitchen wing which has been <del>reconstructed</del> <sup>located</sup> reconstructed. Large chimneys <del>are located</del> in each gable.</p> <p>The interior of the main portion consists of <sup>central</sup> stair hall flanked by a room on each side which retain most of their original woodwork.</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    Endangered <u>No</u> Interior <u>fair</u> Exterior <u>good</u>			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Michael Bourne</u>  DATE OF RECORD <u>Sept 13, 1968</u>	





K-142

Shallcross Farm

Shallcross Neck Rd., near Locust Grove

M. Q. Fallaw - 11/27/85

View to northeast

K142  
#36  
7cc

C. U. A 2